led by Chief Hydrographer. However, the Government of Bangladesh has gone in for arbitration as provided under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea with respect to the demarcation of the maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh.

**Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh**

1568. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has expressed concern over the Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) in what manner it affects China if any Spiritual Figure visit any of the regions of Indian soil; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The Chinese side expressed their concern on the visit of Dalai Lama to Arunachal Pradesh which they claim is a "disputed area". Government's clear and consistent position that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that Dalai Lama is free to visit any part of India has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side.

**Selection of Haj pilgrims**

1569. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Government for selection of Haj pilgrims through Government quota; and

(b) the numbers of pilgrims selected by the Union Government, State-wise, during the current year particularly from Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The distribution of government quota and additional quota was released for the following categories:

(i) Khadim-ul-Hujjaj selected by the State Haj Committees;

(ii) Mehram of female pilgrims, who by Saudi law, need to be accompanied by a male relative *viz.* father, husband, brother, son;

(iii) States on special political considerations and receiving excess applications *e.g.* J&K/ Lakshadweep etc;

(iv) Individual applicants who did not get selected in the qurrah but have an objective reason to perform Haj *i.e.* family obligation, age, health and have been recommended by MPs, Ministers and other eminent persons;